

packages and support they so desperately need. Our men and women in combat need the touch of home, and Mark is doing something amazing to ensure that they are able to hear from all of us who support them here.

Mark sets an example that everyone should follow—doing what they can to help and support our men and women. Everyone has a way they can help, and Mark has found that way and is implementing it.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for all of our men and women, and those who “hold the ropes” for them back home, and we are grateful for Mark’s service.

CERCLA

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my regret that the 109th Congress was unable to address an issue of importance to hard-working Americans across the country. Some groups are misinterpreting the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, also called “CERCLA,” by seeking to apply Superfund liability to traditional agriculture as it relates to the use of animal manure as a fertilizer and soil conditioner. I was in Congress when CERCLA was passed, and I assure you that this is a misapplication of that law.

Congress did not intend this law to apply to animal manure returned to the soil as a fertilizer and did not intend this law to make every farm a hazardous waste site.

This misuse of CERCLA attracted attention from the Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, which held a hearing in November 2005. That hearing prompted me to introduce a bipartisan bill, H.R. 4341, along with distinguished co-sponsors, to specifically clarify CERCLA’s definition of “hazardous waste” to make clear that animal manure is not included. This became necessary because some have lost sight of CERCLA’s purpose. CERCLA was designed to fund the cleanup of dangerous abandoned industrial sites and chemical landfills, such as the infamous Love Canal site in New York. It was not written to cover ongoing agricultural operations.

I am very proud that 191 of my House colleagues have signed on as cosponsors of this bipartisan legislation. This level of support is a testament to the strength of our arguments and the threat that a misapplication of CERCLA poses to America’s farmers. H.R. 4341’s cosponsors represent all regions of this great country. The common thread is a dedication to U.S. agriculture.

Critics of farming claim that CERCLA has always applied to animal manure and should be broadly interpreted to fill gaps in the environmental laws. But, CERCLA was never intended to cover farming and agriculture, and it specifically excludes the normal application of fertilizers, such as animal manure. American farms already are subject to many federal and state environmental laws. Applying CERCLA to manure expands it beyond anything its drafters imagined. Critics believe that by targeting so-called “factory farms” their disregard for the law’s language is legitimate. Unfortu-

nately, these critics fail to understand modern agriculture. Today, integrated farming techniques allow large companies to work together with small, family farmers—they rely on each other. Driving these large companies out of business, as some seem intent on doing by misinterpreting CERCLA, will devastate the family farmers working closely with them. And, all have seen how an exaggerated interpretation of CERCLA liability can doom small businesses. Interpreting the law to include animal manure creates liability for every farmer in the country, big or small.

Mr. Speaker, for generations, animal manure has been used as a healthy, natural, organic fertilizer. It is not waste, but a commodity that is bought, sold and bartered for in small farming communities across America. Partly because of the use of this organic fertilizer, farmers have an outstanding track record as environmental stewards. They do not deserve to be treated like polluters or criminals. H.R. 4341 will remedy this situation and I look forward to returning to this issue in the 110th Congress.

H.R. 6344, OFFICE OF NATIONAL
DRUG CONTROL POLICY REAU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, yesterday, before we passed H.R. 6344, I took the opportunity to thank the various members of the House and Senate, without whom we could not have passed this important and long-overdue legislation. As a point of personal privilege, I want to take this opportunity to thank the many staff members who worked so long and so hard for us.

First, I must thank the Staff director of our Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Marc Wheat has been with us for over three years, and he has been relentless and energetic in pursuing this daunting project. There is no other staffer on the House or Senate side who deserves more credit.

Subcommittee counsel Dennis Kilcoyne, who joined our staff in February, has led the negotiations with the Senate for months and skillfully steered this legislation through the demands and critiques of the many competing parties in Congress, the Administration and private sector. It was a huge task requiring patience, skill and diplomacy, without which the effort would not have succeeded.

The bipartisan nature of this negotiation has been an inspiration, and that is represented on the House side by Tony Haywood, counsel to the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee, who has ably represented the interests of our ranking Subcommittee member, ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He has been a team player with our staff.

I cannot forget the role played by our former Staff Director Chris Dones—now with the House Intelligence Committee—and our former Subcommittee counsel Nick Coleman. These men brought great insight and skill that has contributed much to this legislation.

And I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Susie Schulte of the Government Reform Committee

and Matt Miller of the Speaker’s Drug Task Force, as well as his predecessor Andy Tiongson. All of these people have been enthusiastic and resourceful partners in this fight.

Finally, I must mention all those staff members on the Senate side who responded so well to the hard work of our House Staff. First, I must thank Gavin Young—who represents Chairman SPECTER on the Judiciary Committee—and his predecessor Matt McPhillips, who just left last week to take up his FBI assignment in Denver. These two proved every bit as skillful in shepherding the bill in the last few weeks of maneuvering in that mysterious body we call the United States Senate.

Also we thank Jeremy Mischler and Melissa Sundberg of the Senate Drug Caucus. They have worked long on behalf of Senator GRASSLEY to help us finally reach the elusive goal of passing this bill.

Jackie Parker of Senator LEVIN’s staff and Reagan Taylor of Senator BIDEN’s staff have been working this issue for a long time, and my staff have nothing but high praise for their team efforts. Roscoe Jones of Senator LEAHY’s staff worked hard and in good faith in recent weeks with my staff to hammer out the last few wrinkles in the negotiations, and we thank him for his efforts also.

I also want to salute John Mackey of the House International Relations Committee, Janice O’Connell of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Tim Rieser of the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Subcommittee, who did so much in the drafting of the provisions to ensure that the Director of ONDCP carries out a study on the use of mycoherbicides as a way to kill off coca and opium poppy plants in an environmentally safe manner. Their efforts may succeed where thousands of tons of chemical spraying has failed.

Among the private sector groups, we are especially grateful to Sue Thau of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, Marcia Lee Taylor of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America, and Ron Brooks of the National Narcotics Officers Associations Coalitions. From the treatment, prevention and law enforcement sides—respectively—they have been indispensable partners in our efforts to enact this law. Additionally, I must thank Professor Charles O’Keeffe of Virginia Commonwealth University, who gave us such helpful guidance on provisions to allow doctors to treat more heroin addicts who needs drugs like buprenorphine for treatment.

Finally, I am particularly proud that this Act to be signed by the President takes the first step to prevent what C. S. Lewis referred to as “the abolition of Man.” In the section authorizing the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, it explicitly bans from athletic competition anyone who has been genetically modified for performance enhancement. This technology of “gene-doping” is not yet viable in humans, but it is widely anticipated to be on the horizon. To that end, it is critical to anticipate the problem and explicitly address it.

The protocol set by the U.S. Anti Doping Agency, which follows the World Anti-Doping Agency, is also the standard followed by the International Olympic Committee. These standards state that “The non-therapeutic use of cells, genes, genetic elements, or of the

modulation of gene expression, having the capacity to enhance athletic performance, is prohibited." Although the U.S. Anti Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency presently prohibit gene-doping, there is no guarantee that gene-doping will remain on the prohibited list. The prohibition of gene-doping by statute and further public dialogue is critical. I salute my House and Senate colleagues for their foresighted efforts in this regard.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN
HOSTETTLER

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, JOHN HOSTETTLER served the people of southwest and west central Indiana with an abiding faith and determination to do that which is right. Defeating an incumbent in 1994, he carried with him to Congress his steadfast belief that this nation must ever stray from the Constitution for its governing principles.

Holding to his convictions, JOHN served with distinction on both the House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. His ideological values guided him through difficult decisions. From legislation on gun control, to abortion and fiscal restraint, JOHN never wavered from his convictions. His principled leadership and dedication to service will always be referenced as an example to his colleagues and countrymen.

JOHN's strength of character led him throughout his years in Congress, often being the lone voice speaking out on an issue. It was this commitment that made him a valuable and esteemed member of Indiana's delegation. This nation should boast the patriotic efforts of this great Hoosier. His selfless dedication to service and continued demonstration of leadership while helping to govern this country is to be applauded. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KASEY M. FEAUTO

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Specialist Kasey M. Feauto of Norfolk, NE.

Kasey was born in Sioux City, Iowa on September 9, 1982. He is the son of Michael Feauto and Joy Kleinberg and the brother of Amy.

Kasey graduated from Westwood Community High School in Sloan, Iowa in 2002 where he was an honor roll student and played on the football team. After graduation he joined the Army National Guard in 2003.

Mr. Feauto was deployed to Iraq on October 7, 2005, with the Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. On December 4, 2005, Kasey was driving the lead truck of a three vehicle convoy when a roadside bomb exploded and hit the second truck in the convoy causing the truck to cross oncoming traffic and crash into a concrete wall. After realizing what had

happened, Kasey turned his truck around to go help. The third truck was called to lend medical assistance but was hit by another roadside bomb.

SFC Richard Schild, the gunner in the second truck, was killed instantly. SGT Allen Kokesh, the driver of the second truck, was seriously injured. Kasey pulled Kokesh out of the truck and performed life-saving medical attention, putting a tourniquet on his wounded arm and leg. This medical care saved Kokesh's life long enough for him to return home and see his family. SGT Kokesh passed away in February 2006 from other wounds sustained that day. SSG Daniel Cuka, the truck commander in the third truck, was also killed from the explosion. SPC Corey Briest, the gunner in the third truck, was wounded.

Private First Class Kasey M. Feauto, of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious heroism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the life-saving aide he performed on SGT Allen Kokesh. His exemplary selfless service and outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the Command's mission. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Through this entire trauma Kasey has maintained his heart and sense of humor and his ability to be there for his family and friends in their time of need. He maintains that the real heroes are those who have given their lives for this country. Specifically the men of Charlie Battery who gave their lives: SGT Allen Kokesh Jr., SSG Daniel Cuka, SFC Richard Schild, and SSG Greg Wagner.

Home from Iraq, Kasey is living in Norfolk, NE with his fiancée Maria Vandersnick.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Feauto's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Specialist Kasey M. Feauto.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
AND VALORIE ODETTE WILLIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael and Valorie Williams in celebration of their 25th anniversary on December 18, 2006.

Michael and Valorie, both native Nevadans, were married in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ by the late Bishop E.N. Webb. Since that time, they raised their blended family of four children—Jason, Shawn, Jamaal, and Courtney—with unending love and support and have taught them to have respect for God and their country.

Valorie, a graduate of Rancho High School and veteran of the United States Army and Michael, a graduate of Valley High School and retired employee from the Department of Energy, share a view of life that makes their union special—God is first in everything that they do and everything they are and from that realization, true love exists. They translate this view either to the children they minister to as

youth pastors and advisors for their church or with the children they work with on a daily basis as employees of the Clark County School District.

Their home is a place of peace and refuge for the families they have adopted, fed, or cared for as their own and it can never be said that when you enter their home that you did not feel love and happiness from the many laughs and fellowships they have shared with so many throughout the years. Some come to them for advice. Others come to them for support. But all recognize that their marriage is one to admire—for it is built upon a foundation of mutual respect, truth, love, admiration, laughter and faith in God.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to celebrate Michael and Valorie today as they prepare to celebrate their anniversary of 25 years. I wish them all the best this year and hope they are able to celebrate another twenty-five.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge passage of H.R. 5948, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006, to provide sustained support for the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence. Mr. Speaker, I especially thank you for your commitment to bring this legislation before this Congress. Your deep personal interest in the cause of freedom in Belarus, as demonstrated by your recent meetings in Vilnius with the leaders of the democratic opposition, has been particularly appreciated by those struggling for the rule of law and basic human freedoms. This legislation enjoys bipartisan support, and I want to recognize and thank the tremendous collaboration of Rep. Tom Lantos, an original cosponsor of this bill.

As one who has followed developments in Belarus over many years through my work on the Helsinki Commission, I remain deeply concerned that the Belarusian people continue to be subjected to the arbitrary and self-serving whims of a corrupt and anti-democratic regime headed by Aleksandr Lukashenka. Since the blatantly fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, which the OSCE condemned as having failed to meet international democratic standards, the pattern of repression and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. While those who would dare oppose the regime are especially targeted, the reality is that all in Belarus outside Lukashenka's inner circle pay a price.

RECENT NEWS REGARDING LUKASHENKA'S REGIME

Last week in Riga, President Bush pledged to help the people of Belarus in the face of the "cruel regime" led by President Lukashenka. "The existence of such oppression in our midst offends the conscience of Europe and the conscience of America," Bush said, adding that "we have a message for the people of Belarus: the vision of a Europe whole, free